

3/4/11
Testimony
Fact Sheet

DCF Budget Proposal to Increase Parole Caseloads with the Associated
Reduction of 22 Parole Staff Under
Department of Children and Families Page B-140

- The proposal was created out of Governor Rell's call to reduce costs by 10% last year.
- The Parole Division was the only division targeted for the entire DCF cost reduction due to the fact that it does not fall under the Juan F. consent decree.
- The Division is made up of 49 staff total. 9 Parole Social Work Supervisors and 40 Parole Social Workers.
- 3 Parole Social Work Supervisors and 3 Parole Social Workers will retire by July 2011. Leaving a total of 43 staff.
- If the Budget is passed with 22 additional staff being eliminated there will be 24 staff in total to cover the entire state of Connecticut.
- Projected retirements in 2012 are: 1 Parole Social Work Supervisor and 6 Parole Social Workers. This would leave the Division with a total of 17 staff.
- This was first proposed in 10/1/10 case sizes at that time were 290 youth and 290 families.
- The current parole population as of 3/4/11 is 353 youth and 353 families. This is a 20% increase in four months.
- Raise the Age legislation second phase of 17 year olds will be effective in July 2012; the anticipated increase in the parole population is 60%.
- In real numbers the increase would be close to 600 youth and their families.
- This increase would make the caseload ratio of youth to Parole Social workers 30:1.
- There is proposed legislation related to DCF Parole Services continuing youth under its supervision until the age of 20 which will dramatically increase caseload sizes.
- The reduction of 22 Parole staff has a direct impact on services to families of Connecticut and directly impacts public and youth safety.
- There will be no cost reduction realized by eliminating 22 Parole staff positions. On the contrary, there will be increased costs as youth will spend more time in congregate care.
- Currently congregate care costs can be up to \$900.00 dollars per day to as opposed to \$33.00 per day to maintain a youth in the community with treatment services in place.

- This current reduction plan would not be in the youth or families best interest as family engagement and case management would suffer, services to youth and their families would be greatly impacted, as the division would be forced to be crisis driven, youth and their families would not receive appropriate supervision or services.
- Providers and community programming would not receive proper support or oversight.
- It appears that there was little consideration given to Raise the Age legislation or the impact of the removal of 50% of the Parole Division's staff.
- The projected cost savings of \$1.7 million could be realized through the reduction of 14 managers within the same Bureau of Juvenile Services who have no direct care responsibilities, unidentified functions, and no verifiable accountability.